



THE ISCI BULLETIN

FREEDOM

INDEPENDENCE

JUSTICE

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ISLAMIC SUPREME COUNCIL OF IRAQ

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 1

Sayed Alhakim: The Parliament Must Work To Serve The Interests Of The People

Sayed Alhakim Visits Mr. Alnujaifi



Sayed Alhakim visited on Monday, March 14, 2011, COR speaker, Mr. Osama Alnujaifi. During the meeting, they discussed the most important course of the Iraqi political arena, and the importance of the role of parliament in the legislation of laws that would contribute to the upgrading of the reality of living of the citizens.

ISCI's National Initiative

Sayed Alhakim proposed on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, in co-operation with ISCI's parliamentary bloc, a national initiative, at the political-cultural forum. Sayed Alhakim said "We are preparing to launch a national initiative through our parliamentary bloc in cooperation with other parliamentary blocs and organizations of civil society and all the political forces in this country to reform the situation in the country and meet with the needs of the people on the basis of scientific methodologies away from the history of political and partisan interests, and that this initiative will depend on several axes":

1-We will put forward proposals on laws and required actions to accelerate required legislation, where current laws and measures resulted in curtailing people's interests and services in various parts of the state. We have the vision to deal with such laws and procedures that make things easier for people and meet their needs and interests if these laws and procedures as they relate to

executive or judicial authorities.

2-Define the instructions and procedures that facilitate the process of popular control and control of the media against administrative and financial corruption that blackmails citizens in their follow up of the various functions of the state. We can guarantee the rights of citizens and work to solve their problems in their daily follow up as they hold representatives and government officials responsible.

3-Provide a vision in the application of an electronic filing system for government documents and applications. This E-government will allow for a digital interaction between the government and the citizens. This will mitigate the red-tape that citizens have to deal with as there is an increasing number of required paper documents in government departments. E-government is needed in any institution of the State where all the documents exist and are known and will not fatigue people with such follow-ups and complex procedures.

4-Advance a vision for the facilitation of the process of domestic and foreign investment and protect investors from extortion and the disruption of their business in the State. There is also a need for the establishment of free trade zones and a determination of the priorities in the strategic vision of services in the short, medium and long term.

5-The distribution of jobs on the basis of efficiency, merit and on the ratio of the population of the provinces in order to provide fair opportunities for all people, away from partisan considerations. Hiring should not be based on whether a person is linked to a particular party. This practice of giving a person who has the proper political connections a better opportunity to be hired, and the other who was not associated with a party has no chance even if he is overqualified, is a big problem. This is something that affects the entire country in a negative and destructive way.

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VP Mahdi Receives U.S. Ambassador



VP Mahdi received on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, The U.S. ambassador in, Mr. James Jeffrey. The two sides discussed ways to develop and enhance bilateral relations between Baghdad and Washington, and issues of common concern, and the political developments in Iraq and the region. The two sides stressed on the need for maintenance of the democratic experiment in Iraq, strengthening the relationship between the political forces in order to serve the process of democratization, the construction and reconstruction of Iraq and the provision of necessary services to the people.

Sayed Alhakim Receives Head Of Aliraqiah List

Sayed Alhakim received on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, the head of Aliraqiah list, Dr. Iyad Allawi. During the meeting, they discussed the most important political issues in the Iraqi arena and the necessities of activating the agreements concluded by the Iraqi political parties and strengthen the national partnership. In a press conference following the meeting, Dr. Allawi said "we had serious and prolonged conversations on what are being witnessed by that Arab street and the Iraqi street, and how to deepen the national partnership agreement and the implementation of its provisions. Sayed Alhakim said, "we are pleased today to meet with Dr. Iyad Allawi

in the Middle East and has had unique political and cultural ideas for the region, and wished him to follow his father's path to contribute to enhancing the democracy process, and wished him every success and to contribute to the strengthening of relations between the two countries of Iraq and Turkey. Mr. Erbakan, thanked Sayed Alhakim on the nobility of the good feelings he has shown towards the deceased and his family, and stressed on his intention to continue the journey of his father, wishing at the same time to strengthen the ties between the two neighboring countries in order to serve the interests of the peoples of Iraq and Turkey.

Sayed Alhakim Receives Minister Of Commerce



Sayed Alhakim received on Sunday, March 13, 2011, the Minister of Commerce, Mr. Khairallah Babiker. During the meeting, they confirmed their support for the poorer segments of the Iraqi people through the advancement of and reform of the ration card system and improve its terms in order to meet up with the needs of citizens, and reduce the incidence of financial and administrative corruption, and make great efforts to improve performance in the departments related to the ministry.

Sayed Alhakim Receives Minister Of Immigration



Sayed Alhakim Received on Monday, March 14, 2011, the Minister of Immigration, Mr. Dindar Ndjeman Shafiq. The Minister reviewed the reality of the

work of the ministry, plans and programs to be provided through the years to come and how to address the displacement issue. The Minister thanked Sayed Alhakim for his support of the Ministry in order to provide better services for the Iraqi people.

Sayed Alhakim Hosts Political Cultural Forum



Sayed Alhakim hosted on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, the political cultural forum. We are highly confident in Almighty God and the Libyan people and its ability to restore freedom and pride and dignity and install the genuine will to take its role in the management of its affairs and put an end to such arrogant practices issued by these dictators. We hope for the sake of the people that they will get rid of this dictatorship as soon as possible and to have the opportunity to regain the initiative and manage the affairs of their country themselves. Also, the situation in Yemen is witnessing rapid developments in terms of enthusiasm and motivation and fusion of tribes and clans from across the country in Yemen, which expands the scope of the opposition and the rebels who are willing to bring down the system and change it, and thus, the path of these rebels has crossed the point of no return. These protestors and rebels want to overthrow this system and reach out a democratic and pluralistic system that reflects the will of the Yemeni people. In Bahrain, the dear Gulf country that is close to our hearts, is witnessing significant developments in the will of the people of Bahrain on achieving fair and more freedoms and the political and civil legitimate rights and that continued marches in this country become manifestations for the expressions of this popular will. These major shifts in the Arab region put us in front of a major shift and a new political landscape will have major benefits in the region and the promotion of democracy and the delivery of freedoms and regulate the relationship between regimes

and between peoples as well as achieving social justice and the development of the reality of living. Delivering service to these people and those who do not pay attention to these great transformations will find themselves away from the decision-making and governance. The situation in Bahrain witnessed a lot of marches and peaceful and civilized protests during the past few days and our people said their word and talked about their desires and their aspirations and their criticism of some of the negative phenomena in the reality of Iraq. These rallies have been marred with some errors, which were the subject of condemnation and denunciation of all without exception. What is important is how we transform these legitimate rights into a popular road map in order to reform the situation and the implementation of all measures required to achieve these demands through the Council of Representatives and the government, the judiciary and other joints of the state. This is so that the Iraqi citizens feels that there is someone who listens to their demands. The steps taken by the CoR in sending the representatives to their constituencies in order to listen to people and their demands and then record these concerns is the right step. After gathering this information the Parliamentarians will host the Prime Minister this Thursday at the CoR to discuss issues relevant to the needs of people and their issues. This is the right step and a good sign that will give citizens the impression that there is a parliament that cares and listens to the demands of the people and discusses issues with them and with the officials in the Iraqi government. But this step is not enough, and the strenuous efforts must continue to establish laws and mechanisms to solve the problems of the people. The formation of committees and holding deliberative conferences and putting out press releases, all of these efforts are useful and commendable. They are positive if they produce practical measures that solve people's problems, but they do not lead to such actions and remain at the level of logos. Speeches may lead to the impression in the Iraqi street as prothesis steps to soothe the souls and soften the thoughts and not serious steps to solve people's problems and achieve their aspirations. There are still numbers of draft laws on the table of the CoR, thus MPs have to focus and push these laws and legislation which

The situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain is still evolving, and the Bahraini street is demonstrating to demand their legitimate rights. Good positions were taken but in later times it did not work and thus, we wish that all rulers would appreciate the reality and make the right decisions in time before it becomes too late for them. In Yemen, also we find that the intransigence of the Yemeni president and the ignorance of the demands of the people will lead to a greater demonstrations and this will lead to difficulty in dealing with the topic and might yield to the fall of this regime if not addressed. In Libya, the protests continue and the logic of mind is completely absent from the performance of the Libyan leadership and hysterical dealing of Colonel Gaddafi with these crises is actually tightening the noose around him, expanding the scope of the protests and emphasizing regional and international isolation towards this dictatorial regime. It has abused its people and damaged the region and the world. We followed up with the decision of the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations on freezing Libya's position in the UN Human Rights Council.

ISCI's National Initiative

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6-The application of the law of social security for retirees from the private sector and in this way the country will recover and the economy will be developed and will also encourage small enterprises to absorb the largest number of unemployed
 7-The Distribution of residential land for each family who does not have a piece of land. Owning property is the right of all Iraqis. Also, powers must be given to the provinces in land titling for those families who do not have a piece of land in that province, as well as land titling for small and large enterprises and the resolution of property disputes and encourage investment in fallow land and abandoned land.

8-Provide a vision to accelerate the implementation of electric power projects with major companies contracting with the Iraqi government and facilitate private sector investment in the provinces. This provides for each province an electrical system of its own so if there will be power outage in any electric grid it does not result in power outage in all of Iraq.

9-Define a vision for new mechanisms help to provide ration cards for all citizens in a timely manner and to impose strict penalties on the manipulated people sustains and the withholding of the ration card from high income earners and increase it for the poor and disadvantaged.

10-Reform the banking system, which helps in developing the economy.

11-Support local authorities in the provinces and the promotion of a decentralization administrative principle and the development of the laws in order to achieve true decentralization in the provinces. This would distribute the burden among the ministries and facilitates the task of accomplishing the people's issues. These are the ten themes of the National Initiative, and our people will be informed about the details of this initiative through our parliamentary bloc in cooperation with other parliamentary blocs.

VP Mahdi Speaks To Media



VP Mahdi stressed on the need to meet with everyone to reach a common point in order to provide a fundamental solution to the demands of the Iraqi people. That collective action should not cover up individual mistakes, and that the existence of these errors must not prevent everyone from bearing the public responsibility and we should not hold an individual accountable for all responsibilities. In a response to a question on a call to decentralize the government, he stressed on the importance of abandoning partisan and personal interpretations, and added "in our view, we do not have anything other than the constitution whether we agreed or not agreed."

In another aspect of his speech, he said "it's true that we are in need of democratic contexts to build a political majority, but we need to build and protect the political minority, because without this, then there will be a conflict within the government." With regard to the real mechanisms to

address corruption, he attributed the cause of corruption to the flaccid in the state, which forces the citizen to bribery because of complexity of the federal procedures. About the need to legislate a law to protect journalists, he stressed that the media today, is a large organization that must be protected by laws that do not accept personal interpretations or individual decision because the media is the fourth authority and includes all other authorities it surrounds.

VP Mahdi Meets With Ayatollah Sayed Alsadr



VP Mahdi said that the many developments that have taken place and are taking place in the region points to the validity of the path that Iraq has gone. He said this during his meeting with Grand Ayatollah Sayed Hussein Alsadr.

VP Mahdi said that despite all of its difficult situations, Iraq is a promising example, and added that we can overcome this difficult situation with determination, faith, knowledge, culture, and our religious authority. The Iraqi people deserve all the best and deserve substantial compensation. Ayatollah Sayed Hussein Alsadr welcomed VP Mahdi at the beginning of the meeting and said that he was "pleased today to receive VP Mahdi, a great symbol, a person of great knowledge and competence; he is one of the symbols of Iraq, one of the great men of Iraq."

He added, "We are in need of two key things: We need a culture to allow us to deal with others and understand and accept others and not to think about the marginalization and the deportation of others. As always, culture will produce an educated human being who is able to accept others and engage in dialogue with one another." That is why I say that we are always in need to maintain our culture in order to develop ourselves and to deal with others to build our country and our nation.

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cases which caused the impatience of the citizens, including:

A-Electricity and power: The approach of those false promises announced by officials from time to time, and over eight years in the provision of electric power, and that not one of them 'did' adhere to one of these promises. With the absence of radical solutions to this ongoing crisis and the failure to take serious and concrete steps needed to solve them. On this basis, the religious authority warned of the consequences of continuing it because it will turn later to a method of demolition and not reconstruction.

B-Ration card items: The reluctance of the government in the provision of the ration card items for the Iraqi people, especially low-income families, or living under the poverty line, and failing to improve the quality was another reason for the launch of warnings by the religious authority. This illustrates the lopsided practices and unfair distribution of the national wealth.

C-The provision of jobs for the unemployed: The pork-barrel politics pursued by some officials in the management of State or appointments for money, became a daily phenomenon experienced by the unemployed, especially university graduates, so the religious authority warned officials in the State to change this wrong approach, and take into account the principle of equal opportunities for all Iraqis and the launch of the practice of making appointments based on qualifications.

D-Financial and administrative corruption: The religious authority warned in its statement of the consequences of this phenomenon in the management of the Iraqi state and demanded that officials need to accelerate the development of radical solutions, and to remove the corrupt and the thieves of public funds and the elimination of this plague. One which prevails in the various departments of the State of Iraq, after the decline in the performance of the integrity commission on revealing facts to the public, and to expose this shameful practices against the Iraqi people.

E-The abolition of unnecessary privileges: These adverse factors, which pursued a policy (compromise between the blocs), that granted privileges for

current and former members of Council of Representatives, and provincial councils and senior government officials, ministers and those with special grades or development of unnecessary government positions that cost per annum large sums of public money.

2-Call for early elections of provincial councils: We believe that the call for early elections of provincial councils should not be a justification for the errors and the failure of performance of the federal government and we will not stand against it if it was necessary at this time. That the justification for errors and underdevelopment in the performance of the State, should not be a cause for the preparation of (scapegoats) or to break the jar on the detailed aspects of the state and bears full responsibility for the many failures, and what could result from their failure to accelerate the development of radical solutions to the problems of citizens.

We in ISCI believe that the reform in the management of State is essential and necessary and that the government should move as soon as possible and to address the crises that has beset the country and to find radical solutions necessary to move away from temporary solutions, and to succumb to the demands of the people. We believe that the acquittal of the current approach in the management of the state and put the failure to provide services and living conditions on a select number of politicians is useless and will not solve all these crises. With our belief that some of them (Governors- Provincial Councils) are not qualified in the management of their provinces, but that cannot be circulated to everyone.

3-The 100-day period and placing blame on ministers: The essence of the formation of a government of national partnership is absent in this government formation process, which was based on the satisfaction of political opponents at the expense of the satisfaction of the Iraqi people, and the interests of those political opponents at the expense of the interests of the people. We believe that the essence of forming a government of national partnership is to bring ministers that are competent, honest and able to leave their luxury offices and take to the street to find out the problems

of citizens. It's a citizen's right to ask why the Prime Minister did not make the 100 days decision before the demonstrations and protests, which came in the morning of the twenty-fifth of February. It could be argued that some of the advisers and the Prime Minister's closest advisers, and some of advisors to the ministers, where the majority of them are sycophants, delivered their reports to their superiors that were extremely false, and this had exacerbated the crisis. This 100-day initiative is not realistic if all officials do not meet the legitimate demands of the people.

4-The false accusations of security forces against the demonstrators: That slogans raised by demonstrators in Tahrir Square, proved the invalidity of claims of some of the security services that behind these demonstrations were Baath Party and al-Qaeda operatives. These slogans were actually demanding to root out Baathists in the Iraqi government and in the joints of the state and condemned the crimes committed by al Qaeda, and focused on their legitimate demands. So we believe it is necessary to hold accountable those who were involved in the shooting of peaceful protesters and the journalists, because these protests expressed the reality of the suffering of Iraqis. These demonstrations are much better than the unrealistic reports of close advisors to the senior officials in the State. That the excessive use of force against the peaceful demonstrators will lead to reverse results, we have to warn our people of lurking and owners of hostile agendas to the Iraqi people to break these peaceful protests.

5-Predictions: We believe that dealing with the demonstrators and protesters in this way will perhaps lead to widening the circle and the capacity of demands, and might threaten the officials themselves, and bring about the denunciation and condemnation of the international and regional community. It will increase the anti-prevention practices and freedoms of expression of opinion. These demonstrations may turn to sit-ins.

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and his entourage and it was a valuable opportunity to discuss in-depth the nature of the circumstances in the Arab region in general and Iraq in particular." He added, "we praised during the meeting the position of the Iraqi demonstrators who were demonstrating in a peaceful manner and expressed their views and stressed that when these marches comply with law and the Constitution and the general context then it's a constitutional right and we must be wary of infiltrators who want to harm people's demands."

Sayed Alhakim Receives Patriarch Mar LED II



Sayed Alhakim received on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, His holiness Patriarch (Mar LED II), the President of the ancient Eastern Church and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the country and the nature of the strong brotherly relations between the various components of the Iraqi people. The Patriarch Mar II was pleased to meet with Sayed Alhakim and his admiration to discuss the pioneering role played by Sayed Alhakim for the unity of the Iraqi National Front, and his defense of the rights of all Iraqi people without exception. The President of the Eastern Church was accompanied by the head of the Christian endowment in Iraq and a number of priests.

Sayed Alhakim Receives Iraqi Scientific Elites

Sayed Alhakim received on Saturday,

March 5, 2011, a gathering of deans and professors from the Universities of Baghdad and Mustansiriya, and the University of Technology. The following is the text of his speech: I think that universities, and their scientific cadres, lecturers, scientists, did not take their adequate chance over the years to contribute to building the new experiment. Iraq has the potential to offer an ultimate experience because it has history and the roots of civilization, human capacity and intellectual, but unfortunately, employers did not take their chance and their desired role. Today's problem by my estimation is the cultural problem which is thought to have an impact on all other areas. The security problem and what led to extremism and killing of citizens to "get closer to God," and that youth were lured, thus the problem is the loss of intellectual roots. Today when we look at the concepts held within the Constitution, we see that the constitution speaks of and draws a picture, but in reality there is a completely different picture. there is a conflict between the philosophy of the Constitution and its view of the reality of social life in this country and between controls and procedures, laws and people's mentality and the outlook for these things. Then there is the problem of a structural intellectual and cultural problem in many of the basic problems that we face in building a new experience. In connection with the general situation in education, universities, there are many problems, we wonder about that are in the new budget. A budget which is the largest in the history of Iraq and which amounts to \$82 billion dollars. How much is going to the education sector, and how much money should we allocate for research centers and studies? How much will we be spending on building and updating the development tools and teaching aids for our universities and our schools? The answer is that the percentages allocated in the budget is limited. The advancement needs to have real ingredient that may not be available within such a vision, budget, and impressions. I know the scale of the suffering that can be

experienced by teachers in the most basic necessities of life. The situation in Iraq may be different from what is happening in the region, this country lives this conflict and this reality for many years. Now, there is a new reality, the constitution was drafted by the people that took to the ballot box to elect their representative and we saw three governments, Mr. Allawi, Mr. Jaafari, Mr. Maliki. The political reality of Iraq exists. We have to turn the popular pressure in a way that will encourage officials in positions of responsibility to correct the paths of their work and encourage the street not to get tempted by emotions or with special agendas.

Sayed Alhakim Receives British Ambassador



Sayed Alhakim received on Sunday, March 13, 2011, Mr. John Jenkins, the British Ambassador to Iraq. They discussed the current political developments in Iraq and the Arab region, and ways to promote and support the development of relations between the two countries.

Sayed Alhakim Condolences To Mr. Erbakan



Sayed Alhakim made a telephone call to Mr. Necmettin Erbakan. During the phone call, he comforted Mr. Erbakan on the death of Mr. Necmettin Erbakan, the former Turkish Prime Minister. He described the deceased as a leading figure

will create a climate for the development of the country, the Council of Representatives must stay away from political statements and political positions and polemics and work to serve the people and interests of citizens. We have to take into account the short period through which the Iraqi government had formed and we take into account the circumstances and complexities experienced by this government at the present time. This calls on us all to give this government a chance to get to know the its ability in achieving success and to install the principle of service to the citizens in the coming months and that the Iraqi street is looking forward to seeing the real seriousness in the performance of ministerial and project implementation. They are eagerly awaiting the service problems of citizens to be addressed, especially after the launch of the budget for this fiscal year which gives the government the financial resources required to make these adjustments and the implementation of these projects as soon as possible. That our people showed a high level of patience and endurance, if our people see that things are moving in the right direction and there are the faithful who are working to solve the problems of the people and I do not think that there is an Iraqi citizen who believes that Iraq could turn into Japan in a year or two, but all Iraqis expect that we move with professional steps and with a clear and accurate practical and systematic vision. One that is within timelines to resolve the country's problems and turn Iraq to a developed country. On the eighth day of March of each year we celebrate the International Women's Day as approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1977 and since that date to the present day in each year we celebrate the International Women's Day and we have to recall the pioneering role of the Iraqi women and their daunting sacrifice. Iraqi women have had a substantial role in building this country. We must also remember the material and moral rights for women, pressures from some in light of some customs and traditions that do not give women the dignity and the rightful place in our society, we call upon all the faithful to continue their efforts so that women the other half of society regain their full humanitarian, religious and civil, economic, political, and social rights. We are with the full right of women in this

society and with the increasing roles of the Iraqi women within the legal framework and in which we believe.

Sayed Alhakim Meets With Heads Of National Alliance



Sayed Alhakim visited on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, Dr. Ibrahim Jaafari, head of the National Alliance. During the meeting, they discuss the latest developments in the Iraqi arena and ways to provide decent services for the Iraqi people and the advancement of their standard of living.

Sayed Alhakim Receives Alahrar Bloc Delegation

Sayed Alhakim received on Monday, March 7, 2011, a delegation from Alahrar bloc headed by MP Bahaa Alaaraji. During the meeting, they discussed the most important political developments and the subject of the demonstrations and demands of the demonstrators and to develop plans that will find solutions to the problems of citizens. It was also stressed that the initiative launched by ISCI's parliamentary Bloc and the questionnaire by the Sadrists movement pour in the interest of citizens in addressing issues of concern to the Iraqi people in the elimination of administrative corruption and the provision of services and the creation of jobs for the unemployed.

Sayed Alhakim Meets With VP Alhashimi



Sayed Alhakim met on Saturday, March 5, 2011, with Vice President Tariq Alhashimi. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Iraqi political arena and the changes in the Arab scene and its repercussions on Iraq and its Arab relations. The meeting also discussed ways to strengthen and promote relations between the Iraqi political forces for the good and safety of the country.

Sayed Alhakim Receives Iraqi Political Analysts



Sayed Alhakim received on Sunday, March 6, 2011 a number of Iraqis political analysts. During the meetings, they discussed the effective solutions to the problems of the Iraqi state institutions and administrative and financial corruption, and the dimensions of competencies, and demonstrations witnessed by the Iraqi street, and the positions of political forces, including the government's position. Sayed Alhakim listened to the views put forward by the gentlemen where they presented a clear vision on how to treat those problems.

Sayed Alhakim Hosts Political-Cultural Forum

The Arab region is boiling and the screams of citizens prevail in many Arab countries. They are demanding political and civil rights, freedoms, and dignity in many of these countries. These young people want to succeed and regain their historic role after being ignored, denied and having their will neglected over the decades. In this atmosphere, the Arab regimes have to obey the will of the people and grant the rights of their citizens. Accusing these protesters of serving foreign agendas will only make matters complicated for these leaders and rulers, and will contribute to the further provocation to the feelings of citizens and motivate to demonstrate intensively.

VP Mahdi Issues Statement*In The Name Of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful*

We watch with great interest and with feelings of pain, what is going on in North Africa, with the shedding of the blood of people of Libya at the hands of one of the biggest tyrants in history. We stand with humility and pay homage to the Libyan people and the courage of their revolution reminds us of the hero Omar Almukhtar and his self-styled revolution for independence against colonialism. Recalling that the verdict of history, and that the end of tyrants is always a shameful end, and that the people will triumph always despite the crimes and the narrow selfish interests. What is happening in Libya requires us to have a serious stance, as well as all the civil and governmental institutions, and the regional and international communities. We call for the upholding of our fellow heroes of the Libyan people in all legitimate ways. We call for the recognition of the true representatives of the people of Libya who have been waging a ferocious war against the despotic regime of Gaddafi and his mercenaries, and we have to support them to speed up the victory and confirm the free will of the people. Thus, from my position I am honored to call my brothers in the Iraqi government and the Council of Representatives and the countries of the League of Arab and Islamic countries to take prompt, and effective steps and foremost to recognize the Transitional Council as a representative of the people and cut off any connection with the Gaddafi regime and to secure the border and the shores and besiege Gaddafi by all means and ways until the triumph of the will of the Libyan people.

Alamiri Issues Statement

The Ministry of Transportation announced on Monday, March 7, 2011, that it will put the Port of Faw draft up for bid at a cost of six billion dollars after the completion of the final designs of the project. He stated that this draft would be considered the largest commercial port in the Middle East, and would provide thousands of jobs for Iraqis. The Iraqi Minister of Transportation, Mr. Hadi Alamiri said on the sidelines of the meeting of the Ministry of Transportation with the Italian company that designed the project, "The Faw Port draft, will be up for bid and it will be a good opportunity for foreign companies wishing to invest in the ports sector," and noted that "the Ministry of Transportation will resort to the Iraqi government to fund this project if foreign companies would not offer good bids to accomplish it." Alamiri added that "The ministry discussed with the Italian company the selection of the best sites to create the project, which is one of the important strategic projects for Iraq," and noted that "Iraqi ports are currently not able to meet the needs of Iraq's imports and exports."

Post-25 February Repercussions

Demonstrations and protests, which broke out in the capital Baghdad and most of the governorates of Iraq on Friday, February 25, 2011, can be characterized as peaceful and civilized protests. They expressed, honestly, the demands and legitimate rights of citizens after patience and suffering. None raised slogans against the political process and no-one raised a Baathists slogan, but on the contrary, slogans of de-Baathification and slogans against terrorists were raised, which indicates the commitment to law and the constitution. The constitution grants the public the right to demonstrate and protest

and sit in accordance with the principles and constitutional laws. The security agencies attitude in Liberation Square in Baghdad was not justified, especially after the demonstrators expressed, peacefully, their legitimate demands in the provision of services and means of living. These security agencies arrested groups of demonstrators, and also arrested a number of journalists who were covering those protests and confiscated their press equipment. This resulted in a huge response by the citizens and motivated them to go on demonstrations again to stop these gross violations of human rights. They are upholding their right to freedom of expression, peaceful protest, and disgust towards arbitrary arrests. As well as their demands to provide security and services and create jobs for the unemployed, and the elimination of administrative and financial corruption, nepotism and clienteles. The decline in the performance of the state over the past five years has been the direct cause of the impatience now expressed by the masses, and pushed them to go out and protest after the expanding phenomenon of the class between the officials and the citizens, and the creation of a political class that hoards the wealth.

There is also an absence of the ration card items that the citizens depend on. These successive crises because of the failure of the overall performance and its alarmingly swift decline, and the inability of the Iraqi state to provide the minimum rights of citizens, the masses came out to express their indignation and resentment of the false promises. The response by the security organs to the peaceful protesters that prevented and punished them for protesting had many repercussions on the general political situation, including:

1-Warnings from the religious authority: The Religious authority has warned senior officials in the Iraqi state, in its statement issued on Saturday, March 6, 2011, of the consequences of continuing of the current approach in the management of the State. They emphasized repeatedly the need to work to achieve the legitimate demands of the people. These warnings by religious authority were led by Sayed Al-Sistani, and accurately diagnosed the current approach in the State administration which had hurt badly the interests of the Iraqi people, and resulted in many of the deprivations

